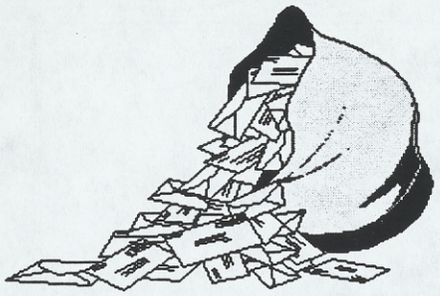
Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA



Lambda Letters Project

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

32603

Vol. 6, No. 10 October, 1998 www.lambdaletters.org LambdaLP@aol.com (916) 965-6851

LLP Board Establishes Membership Dues

At its August meeting, the Lambda Letters Project board of directors adopted policies and procedures regarding annual membership dues. These newly adopted membership dues will provide a financial foundation upon which Lambda Letters Project can continue its rapid growth, both in membership and in services provided to the community. While the dues collected will cover the out-of-pocket costs of preparing, distributing, collecting, and delivering letters to and from its members, Lambda Letters will continue to rely on the generosity of its members to donate over and above the dues level to plan for the future.

Dues have been set at $35 per year, and $20 for members who have limited incomes. The board voted to make them due January 1st each year. Members have until April 30th to remit dues to LLP. Anyone who cannot afford even the $20 level of membership is encouraged to contact Lambda Letters to request a waiver. It is not the wish of the board or staff at Lambda Letters to disenfranchise anyone because of the imposition of membership dues.

Currently, Lambda Letters is an all-volunteer effort. No one on the staff or the board of directors

Continued on page 7

Lambda Letters Q & A

Almost every month, one or two people question Lambda Letters' coverage of issues that do not pertain directly to lesbians and gays. So it's time to deal with the issue in our newsletter. What follows is a list of the most common questions asked and our answers to them.

Why does Lambda Letters deal with issues of concern to people of color and women's issues?

The Project covers these issues for two reasons. We believe deeply in the need for justice in these areas and we believe in coalition politics. Lesbians and gays are a minority in California and there are only two lesbian legislators in our legislature. We need the votes of women and people of color legislators on the bills that we care about. If we ask them to support us on L/G/B/T issues, they have a right to expect us to support them on their issues.

Where's the payoff? Have legislators of color really been supporting us on our issues?

Presently there are four basic laws that protect lesbians and gays in California. Two of them were

Continued on page 10

Also in This Issue:

Treating Female Athletes Like Male Athletes .. 3, 9
Declaring a Medical State of Emergency 3, 9
United Airlines: Two-Faced Flyer? 4
AIDS Ain't Over! 4
State Legislative Update, Part VI 5–7
California Alliance for Pride & Equality Debuts ... 8

Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters and E-mail Messages Collected

August, 1998	21,604 letters
In all of 1998	112,698 letters

Dollars Spent

July, 1998	$1,962
In all of 1998	$11,462

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Statement of Purpose

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

Board of Directors

Chair: Stefan Grünwedel, San Francisco, (650) 655-3154, s-t-e-f-a-n@rocketmail.com
Vice-Chair: Alan Beach, San Francisco, (415) 431-8344, alanrhs@aol.com
Treasurer: Bob Maxie, Sacramento, (916) 441-1304, bmaxie@aol.com
Recorder: Jan Hansen, San Diego, (619) 275-5343, partners@access1.net
Larry Beaty, Carmichael, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com
Michael Butler, Antelope, (916) 722-6301, mbutler@gvn.net
Lynn Dobbs, San Diego, (619) 275-5343, partners@access1.net
Ray Leber, Sacramento, (916) 925-5368
Scott Roy, Upland, (909) 985-7652, roykit@aol.com

Staff

Administrator: Boyce Hinman, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: Stefan Grünwedel, (650) 655-3154, s-t-e-f-a-n@rocketmail.com
Legislative Analyst, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues: Hilary Cook, (619) 260-0561, hcook@earthlink.net
Legislative Analyst, HIV/AIDS Status Issues: Randy Allgaier, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, (415) 487-3000
Legislative Analyst, People of Color Issues: Marty Martinez, (415) 255-9191, mmar10ez@aol.com
Legislative Analyst, Women's Issues: Carla Leek, (916) 442-5169
Database Manager: Charles Penn, (916) 663-4951, cpenn@foothill.net
Webmaster: Lynn Dobbs, San Diego (619) 275-5343, webmaster@lambdaletters.org
E-mail Alert Advocate, Federal AIDS Issues: Joe Heller, (520) 762-9787, jrheller@dakotacom.net

Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly except in December by the Lambda Letters Project Inc.,
6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.
Postmaster: send address changes to the address above.

Sponsors of Lambda Letters Project

Corporate Honor Roll

Visionary ($501 or more)
CGNIE, Inc.; Faces; Outword Newsmagazine

Activist ($301–$500)
MGW Newspaper; Sacramento Drummer Fund; Sports Leisure Travel; Whisler Land Company

Advocate ($201–$300)
Lillian Ordaz Financial Planning of Sacramento

Sponsor ($100–$200)
First Unitarian Universalist Church; Killick Financial Services; Martino Graphic Design; Sacramento PFLAG

Individual Honor Roll

Visionary ($501 or more)
Jan Hansen & Lynn Dobbs; Ray Leber; Robert Maxie; Donald S. Ricart

Activist ($301–$500)
Jerome Murphy, M.D.

Advocate ($201–$300)
Lucien Agosta, Ph.D.; Cindy Baudoin & Nancy McKernan; Deborah Brooks; Geoff Gann; Dave Hanson; Wilmer & Betty Hornbostel; Herb King; Dennis Mangers; Scott Roy & Scott Kittrell; Susan Wolf

Sponsor ($100–$200)
Margaret Alton; Kathleen Carson; Ellie Charlton & Jeanne Barnett; John Duran; John Flick; Jeff Greer; Stefan Grünwedel; Marylou Hacker; Joe Heller; James Higgins; Frank J. Howell; Jesse Joad; Roxanne Kellam; Kathy A. Kinzie; J. Michael Lee; Robert Mahoney; Judith & Michael O'Hara; Joan E. Potter; Mary Rohwer; Leroy Rostad; Bonnie Shelley; Sandra Spaulding; Valerie Spencer; Anh Trung Tran; Kevin Watson

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation? If so, you may register a complaint with one of the following Division of Labor Standards Enforcement district offices.

Bakersfield (805-395-2710)	Eureka* (415-557-7878)
Fresno (209-248-8400)	Long Beach (310-590-5044)
Los Angeles (213-897-4037)	Marysville (916-741-4061)
Oakland* (415-557-7878)	Redding* (415-557-7878)
Sacramento (916-323-4920)	Salinas* (415-557-7878)
San Bernardino (909-383-4333)	San Diego (619-637-5500)
San Francisco* (415-557-7878)	San Jose* (415-557-7878)
Santa Ana (714-558-4111)	Santa Barbara (805-963-1438)
Santa Rosa (707-576-2363)	Stockton (209-948-7770)
Van Nuys (818-901-5312)	Ventura (805-654-4538)

*These cities share an office.

Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3½" × 2") $10 per issue, quarter-page ads $20 per issue, half-page ads $30 per issue, full-page ads $50 per issue. Deadline for payment and camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, is the 25th of each month.

☐ Yes, I want to make a donation to help LLP continue its important work.
(Appreciated but not required.)

☐ $10 ☐ $20* ☐ $30 ☐ other $_____
(*Actual cost to LLP for you to receive 44 letters in one year.)

Change of Address Form

Please change my address to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, ZIP Code _____

Phone _____

Mail to LLP, 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

Women's Issue

What Works for McGwire Should Work for McGee

By Carla Leek

In a blatant example of the way working women are treated differently from working men, Women's National Basketball Association star Pamela McGee has lost custody, at least temporarily, of her three-year-old daughter, Imani.

Macomb County (Michigan) Chief Circuit Judge Peter J. Maceroni ruled September 15th that McGee's ex-husband, a Baptist minister, will have temporary custody of McGee's daughter pending an investigation of McGee by social services and a friend of the court.

What is McGee's crime? She plays basketball for the Los Angeles Sparks and travels less than three months out of the year. For this, she has been labeled an unfit mother. McGee's other child is cared for by a nanny while she travels, and Imani has never traveled with the team. McGee has not specified how she intends to care for Imani during the 1999 season.

Her ex-husband's attorney, Peter Lucido, summed up his case by saying, "There are a lot of sacrifices you need to make to be a good basketball player. You need to make a lot of sacrifices to be a good parent as well."

Interesting, then, that when baseball star Mark McGwire is shown nationwide on television picking up his son after hitting his record-setting home run, no one accuses him of poor parenting. To the contrary, Mark McGwire is being touted as a role model for parents and children alike. Yet McGwire is divorced, his son is the team's bat boy, and more games are played in a month of baseball than in the entire WNBA season.

As for McGee, no published accounts accuse her of neglecting her daughter. McGee believes she's being persecuted because she plays basketball. A two-time national champion at the University of Southern California and gold medalist in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, McGee is an aging but highly respected player. (To read more about her record, go online to www.wnba.com/playerfile/pamela_mcgee.html.)

Continued on page 9

People of Color Issue

Declaration of Medical State of Emergency Needed

By Randy Allgaier, San Francisco AIDS Foundation; Marty Martinez, AIDS Project East Bay; and Boyce Hinman, Lambda Letters Project

According to Marsha Martin, Special Assistant to Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, the secretary has committed an additional $4.9 million to address AIDS among minorities nationwide. This money was made available for federal fiscal year 1998, which ended on September 30th.

AIDS activists, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Clinton administration are now engaged in intense negotiations on the subject of a major new federal effort to combat AIDS in the African American community. However, Ms. Martin notes that the fiscal 1999 federal budget has yet to be announced, so no specific commitment—and no dollar commitment—has yet been made by the administration.

As reported in the August issue of *HIV Policy Watch,* African American AIDS advocates and the Congressional Black Caucus earlier this year called upon Secretary Shalala to declare a medical state of emergency related to HIV/AIDS in the African American community.

The need for this is made abundantly clear by the following statistics. According to *The 1998 World Almanac of the USA,* African Americans comprise 7.1 percent of the population of California. Yet, according to the State of California Office of AIDS, roughly 17

Continued on page 9

S Q P

If you have a printing question, or need some advice....pick up the phone and call. You will get the benefit of 35 years experience.

Sacramento Quick Print
(916) 442-5615 phone (916) 442-6891 fax

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issue

United Airlines: Two-Faced Flyer?

By Hilary Cook

It seems that United Airlines shows one face to its customers and another face to its employees.

When United Airlines garnered a grade of B in *Out & About* magazine's airline ratings this year it was a big improvement over last year's "Rock Bottom" award. The ratings report on airlines' policies as they affect customers in same-sex relationships, and to a lesser extent on their internal employee policies. United improved its score by offering customers gay-friendly policies on award transfer, bereavement fares, and use of the private lounge. It began to sponsor gay events and took out ads in a national gay publication.

At the same time, however, United has spear-headed an attempt not only to avoid extending limited partner benefits to its employees, but to overturn the San Francisco ordinance that requires them.

In 1996 the city of San Francisco passed the landmark Equal Benefits Ordinance. This ordinance requires that organizations contracting with San Francisco offer the same benefits to registered domestic partners of employees that are offered to spouses of employees. At the time about 500 companies offered such benefits. The number has since grown to over 3,000 employers nationwide.

During the initial implementation of the new ordinance, United Airline's twenty-five-year lease at San Francisco International Airport came up for renewal. The city renewed the lease for two years provided that United would comply with the law as it stood. During that time the Airline Transportation Association pursued a challenge to the law on behalf of its airline members. It argued that since the city has a monopoly at the airport, it is not acting as a market participant, but is making a regulation.

The court agreed that airports were an exception. In other contexts however, the ordinance was legal. The court did agree that the city could require the airlines to provide bereavement, family leave, and flight benefits. When the two-year lease expired, however, United once again refused to implement any partner benefits and has instead gone to court on its own behalf in an attempt to strike down the entire ordinance.

It's unfortunate, but United's actions in fighting to overturn the Equal Benefits Ordinance threatens to destroy the relationship they have built up with some of their best customers.

Ironically, United's quick improvement in response to their sad ranking last year in *Out & About* shows that the airline knows the value of the gay and lesbian travel market. Please let them know that "gay friendly" needs to be more than a façade by signing the letter to the CEO of United Airlines.

HIV/AIDS Issue

It Ain't Over!

By Boyce Hinman

Reports presented at the recent 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva revealed that there are now varieties of HIV that are resistant to all medications now in use, even the protease inhibitor drugs. This situation had been predicted by a number of medical authorities.

The latest treatments require HIV-positive people to take several different drugs each day and to take them according to a very precise schedule. Failure to follow the schedule exactly leads to the reoccurrence of high levels of virus in the body and to the development of a highly drug-resistant variation of the virus.

The problem is that far too little has been said about the above facts. Many people assume that HIV has been defeated and they can engage in unsafe sex without risk. Actually the drug-resistant virus can be transferred from one person to another during unsafe sex and the resistant virus is off and running.

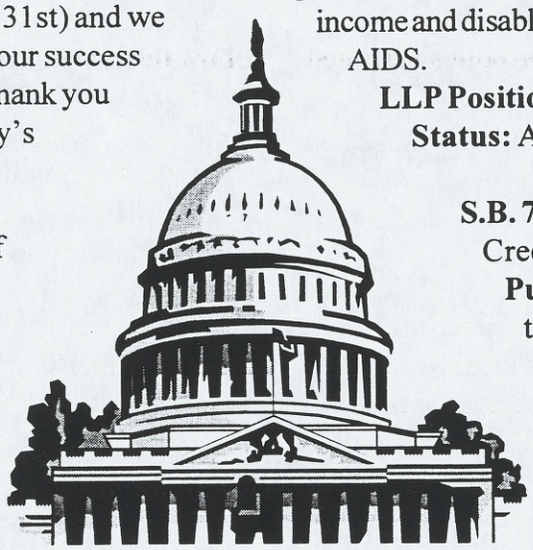
The federal government should develop a much more effective program to warn people about the danger a program that is as visible and widespread as its antismoking campaign, or it should provide funds to private non-profits to do the job. We urge you to write to Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala and tell her so.

For more information about the 12th World AIDS Conference, visit the official Web site at www.aids98.ch.

Legislative Update, Part VI

This is the sixth of a series of articles to inform you of the progress of both good and bad bills through our state legislature. We have been successful in moving many of the good bills and stopping some of the bad bills. Over 70 percent of the bills opposed by Lambda Letters were defeated in the state legislature and two-thirds of the bills supported by us were passed. The flow of your letters and e-mail messages to our state legislature has been much greater than usual this year (112,000 pieces of mail by August 31st) and we think that has something to do with our success in the halls of the state legislature. Thank you for doing your part in our community's effort.

This article was written in late September and reflects the status of many of the bills we have been watching and covering as of that date. The final day of the legislative session was August 31st, and any bills not approved by legislators in both houses by that date died. So this update covers only the bills that were passed and sent to the governor.



Here is a list of some of the bills we have been following showing their status as of late September.

HIV/AIDS Issues

A.B. 20 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To provide that people living with AIDS, who return to work, continue to receive Medi-Cal health coverage until they become eligible for health insurance under their employers' plans.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Approved and sent to the governor.

A.B. 1663 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the state to conduct studies of unique identifier systems of tracking the spread of HIV that do not require the reporting of the names of people who test positive for HIV.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Approved and sent to the governor.

A.B. 2737 (Dion Aroner, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To create the Supportive Housing Fund to provide housing for homeless and other very low income and disabled persons, including those with AIDS.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Approved and sent to the governor.

S.B. 705 (Richard Rainey, R–Walnut Creek)
Purpose: To criminalize the "intentional" transmission of HIV through unprotected sex.
LLP Position: Oppose.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

L/G/B/T Issues

A.B. 1059 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require that all health insurance companies that offer policies covering employees and their spouses also offer coverage for employees and their domestic partners. Does not require employers to buy coverage for their employee's domestic partners.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed both and sent to the governor.

Continued on page 6

Today's Voice for Spiritual Choice
RELIGIOUS SCIENCE
Creative Living Center
of Greater Sacramento
6035 Main Avenue
Orangevale
(916) 988-8500
A Wake Up Call to Wholeness
. . . to make a difference in the World

Berg & Associates
PRIVATE PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATOR
- Private Case Management
- Conservator of Person and Estate
- Durable Power of Attorney – Health • Financial

Lisa J. Berg, M.S.W.
P.O. Box 161653
Sacramento, CA 95816-1653
(916) 442-6411
Fax (916) 443-3829

Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

A.B. 1999 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Encino)
Purpose: To amend the states Hate Crimes Statistics Act by adding gender and defining gender to include transgendered people. Provides stiffer penalties for hate motivated crimes based on gender and gender identity. Requires the counting and reporting of such hate crimes.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

A.B. 2156 (Fred Keeley, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To strengthen the California Labor Code sections that prohibit sexual orientation–based employment discrimination. Increases the deadline for filing a complaint from 30 days to one year. Requires employers to post notices that sexual orientation–based employment discrimination is illegal and to display list of offices at which complaints may be filed.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor. Vetoed by the governor.

People of Color Issues

A.B. 1784 (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: To provide $10 million to fund substance abuse programs for adolescents in the 10 counties with the most at-risk adolescents.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

A.B. 1815 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To exempt certain limited English–proficient students from taking the achievement test, which is given in English, and which is otherwise required by the state.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor. Vetoed by the governor.

A.B. 2031 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prevent the governor from denying access of legal resident aliens to many state-funded health programs for the poor.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

A.B. 2171 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To make immigrant children eligible for the Healthy Families state health insurance program regardless of when they entered the country.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

A.B. 2421 (Mike Honda, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To ensure that all immigrants maintain eligibility for state housing programs. This is essential to keep immigrant families from being evicted or separated from one another.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

S.B. 34 (John Vasconcellos, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To guarantee that all low-income women, regardless of immigrant status, have access to state prenatal care programs.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

Continued on page 7

WHISLER LAND COMPANY

For All Your Real Estate Needs

Commercial and Residential Sales 916-446-6666

Property Management and Rentals 916-446-6663

Serving Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado Counties and Outlying Areas Since 1975

Proud Supporters of Our Community and many of its Organizations

www.whisler.com

Legislative Update

Continued from page 6

S.B. 1500 (Richard Polanco, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To outlaw the manufacture, import, sale, possession, or loaning of unsafe guns.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

Women's Issues

A.B. 499 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Encino)
Purpose: To systematize and strengthen the State Education Code, particularly as it relates to discrimination, including sex discrimination.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

A. B. 1112 (Bob Hertzberg, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require HMOs and insurance providers to cover the cost of prescription contraceptives. To get the governor's support, the bill has been amended to allow some employers, who have a religious objection to contraception, to provide for their employees group health plans that do not cover contraceptives. In these cases employees who earn up to 400 percent of the poverty level would be permitted to purchase health coverage that does cover prescription contraceptives from a state-funded family planning program.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to governor.

A.B. 2592 (Howard Wayne, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To use tobacco taxes to fund prevention and treatment of breast cancer, with special emphasis on low income, Native American, and minority women.
LLP Position: Support.
Status: Passed and sent to the governor.

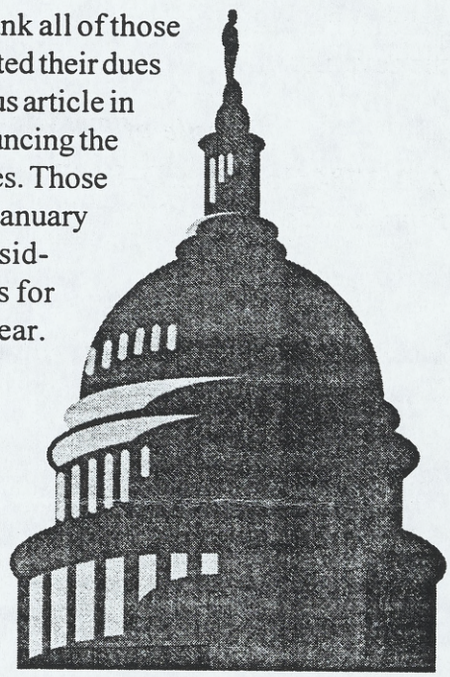
Membership Dues

Continued from page 1

receives a salary. However, because of the success of the Project, it is clear that the size and complexity of the organization cannot rely upon volunteers for much longer. For example, the board of directors anticipates that within the next two or three years, it will need to hire at least one full-time member of the staff.

It is also important to remember that the success of Lambda Letter lies not only in the generous financial support of its members, but also in the remarkable level of their participation. Each month, between 70 and 80 percent of those on our mailing list return signed letters for LLP to deliver. In order to be effective, LLP needs for each member to sign all letters that are consistent with their personal values and beliefs and to return them for counting and delivery. Therefore, even those members that have paid membership dues risk being removed from the Lambda Letters mailing list if they do not return at least one signed letter during any three-month period.

We wish to thank all of those members who remitted their dues based on the previous article in the newsletter announcing the establishment of dues. Those dues paid in before January 1, 1999, will be considered as prepaid dues for the 1999 calendar year.



KEN PRAG

PAPER AMERICANA

OLD POST CARDS • STOCKS & BONDS • PASSES
STE REOPTICON VIEWS • TIMETABLES

PHONE - SAN FRANCISCO
(415) 586-9386

MAIL - P.O. BOX 14817
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114

Deborah A. Brooks
Certified Public Accountant

• ACCOUNTING
• TAX PLANNING
• TAX PREPARATION

My Place or Yours!

5350 Marysville Road
Browns Valley, California 95918

P.O. Box 248
800-600-9339

California Alliance for Pride and Equality Debuts

Community activists from San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and Sacramento met on September 12th and 13th in San Francisco to begin the development of a new statewide organization for the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community. The California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE) has the mission to ensure the dignity, safety, equality, and civil rights of all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer Californians.

"The importance of developing a financially sound and strategic organization that ensures a diverse community voice and a commitment to grassroots involvement are the guiding principles for CAPE," said Randy Allgaier, spokesperson for the new group. "With so many attacks in recent months on our community through bigoted ads bankrolled by radical right extremists and mean-spirited statements by political leaders in this country, it is crucial that we organize, stand up for our dignity, and fight for our rights," Allgaier noted.

CAPE, which will be based in Sacramento, has organized an interim steering committee, cochaired by Robert Haaland of San Francisco and Carol Anderson of Los Angeles, and is filing preliminary articles of incorporation within the next few weeks. The steering committee will be meeting in San Luis Obispo on October 17th and will begin to develop the organization's statewide board of directors at that time.

CAPE will be holding a statewide community meeting on December 5th, at a location to be announced, in order to bring community members and community-based groups together to begin developing the vital grassroots of the organization.

Individual annual memberships are $25 for basic membership, $40 for households, $10 for students and seniors over 55, and $100 and up for founding memberships. Organizational memberships begin at $200 per year.

For more information please contact CAPE at 584 Castro Street # 501, San Francisco CA 94114, by phone or fax at (415) 252-0810, or by e-mail at calcape@aol.com.

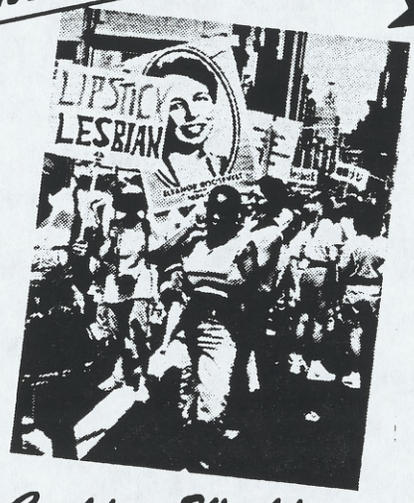
LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY PRESENTS: ALL GAY & LESBIAN

MOVIE NIGHT

"Stolen Moments"

GENERATIONAL DOCU-VIDEO OF LESBIAN HERSTORY

FAR FROM A LOVE STORY!



"FASCINATING"

"EROTIC"

"SHOCKING"

PLUS:

Shoulda...Coulda...Woulda...

A BOY COMEDY ABOUT DREAMIN' OF LOST LOVES!

MEET FILM MAKER SHAWN MICHAEL

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 11

$10.00 DONATION INCLUDES CATERED INTERMISSION AND *RAFFLE ENTRY

(*PRIZE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

6:30- THE CREST -1013 K ST. MALL

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT - 965-6851

-This benefit is separate from SIGLFF-

Medical State of Emergency Needed

Continued from page 3

percent of those living with AIDS in California identify themselves as African American and 21.5 percent of the new cases now being reported are among African Americans. Thus their representation among new AIDS cases is three times their representation in the general population.

A full declaration of a public health state of emergency would highlight the disproportionate impact HIV is having in the African American community, and encourage an internal dialogue about HIV, homophobia, and drug use among African Americans.

For Congress, the key component of the emergency authority is the requirement that Secretary Shalala report to Congress within 90 days after the end of the fiscal year to detail the results of the various departmental initiatives used to respond to the emergency. Please write to Secretary Shalala urging her to declare a medical emergency and to commit significant new funds to the fight against AIDS in the African American community.

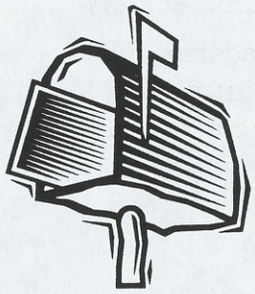
McGwire and McGee

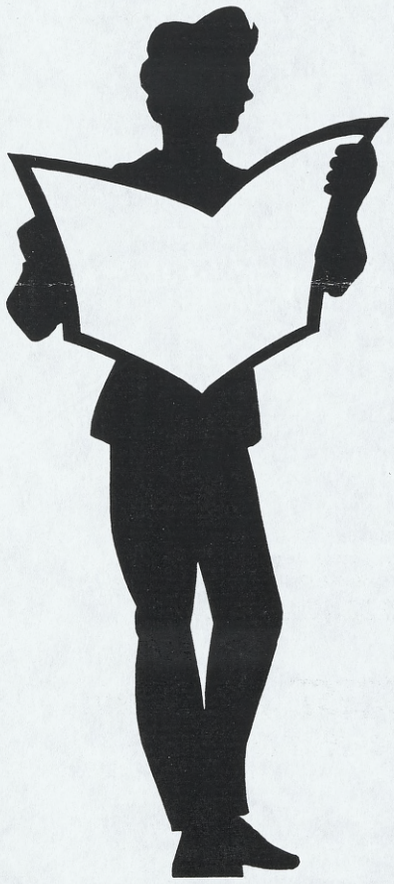
Continued from page 3

This legal approach is a common one, often employed to force lesbians to give up custody of their children. It's traditionally been relatively easy to prove that a woman is a poor parent simply because she works. McGee is not gay by any account, but her ex-husband's lawyers have adopted this well-worn strategy to discredit her parenting abilities.

What should be a workable situation for McGwire and his son should also be a workable situation for McGee and her daughter. Please sign the enclosed letter encouraging Chief Circuit Judge Peter Maceroni to allow McGee to retain custody of her daughter.

Don't Know Who Represents You?
Just ask us and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials.





Do it . . . without the Kinks!

Your LOCAL Desktop Publishing Center

Rent Computer Time
Scan Photos and Text
Print Eye-Popping Color on the
Canon 800 Color Laser Color Copies
Black & White at 300, 600, & 1200dpi

We'll put any image on Shirts & Mousepads SAVE 15% w/this ad

COMPUSTATIONS

1819 J Street 916-441-4515
MON. - FRI.: 9AM - 5 PM SAT. 12PM - 4PM

Lambda Letters Q & A

Continued from page 1

introduced by people of color. The four laws are as follows:

- The consenting adults bill legalized same-sex relations between consenting adults in private. Willie Brown, an African American, introduced this bill several times in the 1970s until it was passed and signed by the governor.
- The California Labor Code was amended a few years ago to prohibit sexual orientation–based employment discrimination. This bill was introduced by a Caucasian legislator, Terry Friedman.
- The Hate Crimes Statistics Act prohibits, among other things, hate crimes based on the sexual orientation of the victim. It also requires police departments to count such crimes and report them to the state attorney general. Dianne Watson, an African American, introduced this bill and got it passed and signed into law.
- The Unruh Civil Rights Act prohibits sexual orientation–based housing discrimination. Mr. Unruh was a Caucasian legislator.

This year the legislature sent three bills to the governor that affect the civil rights of lesbians and gays. Check out the "Legislative Update" article in this newsletter for details on these bills. Lambda Letters supported all of them. As you will see from Table 1 in the next column, African American and Latino(a) legislators overwhelmingly supported the bills.

Even so, doesn't the time and effort spent on other bills cut substantially into the time that Project staff could be spending on issues of direct concern to lesbians and gays?

In just the first eight months of this year, Lambda Letters delivered 46,000 letters and e-mail messages on L/G/B/T issues to California's elected officials. No other organization comes even close to that accomplishment.

In addition, we delivered over 34,000 letters and messages on HIV/AIDS issues. According to the California State Office of AIDS, 66 percent of people living with AIDS are "men who have sex with men." So AIDS is still of direct importance to gay men. Thus, with the two subject areas combined, we have delivered over 80,000 letters and messages of direct consequence to lesbians and gays. That was 71 percent of all the letters we delivered this year.

Table 1.
Percentage of Support of L/G/B/T Bills

Ethnicity	A.B. 1059	A.B. 1999	A.B. 2156
African-American	86%	100%	100%
Latino(a)	64%	95%	90%

Note: To arrive at these percentages, yes and no votes were counted; absent, abstaining, or not voting were not counted.

Another point is that there are not that many bills introduced of direct importance to the civil rights of lesbians and gays. We have dealt with virtually all those introduced this year. So dropping the other subjects wouldn't add all that much to the L/G/B/T rights issues.

The numbers you quote are mainly e-mail messages that the Project generates. Are those really effective? Do legislators really check their e-mail?

Many legislators' staff members encourage us to gather e-mail messages on their bills. A member of

Continued on page 11

"Imagination is your first tool in gardening"

THE *Gifted* GARDENER

Fine Gifts for the Urban Gardener

Tony Sellers
Manager

2122 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 447-5956

Lavender Valentines — Let us know when your anniversary occurs!

Lambda Letters Q & A

Continued from page 10

Assemblymember Migden's staff complained once about the huge volume of e-mail they were getting on their own bill. We had forgotten to take her address off the list when we did an alert on behalf of one of her bills. His complaint is evidence that these messages are read.

The messages generated by e-mail are largely form letters, like our paper letters. Letter for letter, a personal letter is more effective than a form letter. However, the huge volume of mail we deliver is having a beneficial impact. This year, over 70 percent of the bills we opposed were defeated in the legislature and two thirds of the bills we supported were passed.

You count letters on issues of concern to transgendered people as L/G/B/T letters. Are transgendered people really part of the lesbian and gay community? Doesn't work on their issues significantly reduce the time you could be spending on real lesbian and gay civil rights?

Any teenage homophobe will tell you all lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered people are "a bunch of fags." The world sees us as one community.

We are all under attack for the same reason: we refuse to abide by the gender-related rules laid down by society. Those rules say that a person born with a penis should have sex only with a person who was born with a vagina. A person born with a penis must never wear dresses and a person born with a vagina may only wear pants if it remains clear that she actually is a woman.

Persuading the world that people have the right to define gender-appropriate behavior for themselves benefits everyone in our community. Progress on this issue—for lesbians, or gays, or bisexuals, or transgendered people—benefits all four elements of our community. We are made one community by the definition of society, by the common threat we face, and by the similarity of our experiences in an unfriendly world.

Boyce Hinman
Administrator

the news resource of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community

OUTWORD
newsmagazine

The staff and management of Outword Newsmagazine fully supports the work and goals of Lambda Letters Project and offers its profound gratitude to the volunteers and staff for making those goals a reality.

Outword Newsmagazine • 709 28th Street • Sacramento, California 95816-4116
(916) 329-9280 • Fax 498-8445 • Email news@outword.com • Website www.outword.com

70s Party

A Fundraiser for RAINBOW FESTIVAL 1998 Charities

Project Tocsin • Kids with Cancer • Lambda Community Center

Join us as we celebrate the anniversaries of

FACES • UNITY OUTREACH • OUTWORD NEWSMAGAZINE

... and it's also TERRY SIDIE's Birthday!!

COME DRESSED IN THEME - $500 in CASH & Prizes!

Choose your favorite TV character from

Brady Bunch • 3's Company • Wonder Woman • Charlie's Angels • Welcome Back Kotter • Dukes of Hazzard
All in the Family • Partridge Family • Good Times • Police Woman • Rhoda • And that whole "Bionic" thing!

(Or anything else you can think of!)

70s DRINK SPECIALS

We roll back prices on some of your favorites to 1970s price levels!

DJs Jon Williams & Tony Campos • Unity Outreach Emcees

Reigning Grand Duchess Sissy La La • Grand Duchess 18 Do-me-Moore

FRIDAY, Oct 9th

at FACES • $5 Doors at 8PM

Net Proceeds to above listed charities

FACES

2000 "K" Street • Sacramento • CA • 95814
916.448.7798 • www.FacesNightclub.com

Unity Outreach
RAINBOW FESTIVAL 98
CGME, Inc • www.CGME.org

OUTWORD
Newsmagazine

Broken Chains

(The Calendar)

A Celebration of
The People Who Set us Free

At the end of the last century, Oscar Wilde described same sex love as "The love that dare not speak its name." At the end of this century, same sex marriage is legal in Denmark and Sweden and it may soon be recognized in the states of Hawaii, Vermont, and Alaska.

In the 1950s Harvey Milk was afraid to let his employer discover that he was gay for fear the employer would fire him. As this century draws to a close hundreds of employers are offering health benefits to the partners of their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered employees.

For much of this century our nation's police forces engaged in beatings and shakedowns of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens. Now many of those same police departments employ openly lesbian, gay bisexual and transgendered officers.

At the beginning of this century virtually all states had laws against same sex activity and discrimination against the queer community was fully acceptable. Now a dozen states have laws banning sexual orientation based employment discrimination.

The chains of the queer community may not yet be fully broken, but they are certainly breaking. The breathtaking improvements of this century are due in large part to the courageous work of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered pioneers who blazed a path to freedom for the community from which they sprang. It is fitting, as this century ends, that we celebrate the lives of those pioneers and dedicate ourselves to finishing their work in the twenty first century.

Lambda Letters has created a 1999 Calendar that does just that. **(Renowned artist Andy Markley designed the cover.)** The Calendar includes pictures and the life stories of many of the women and men who played major roles in breaking the chains of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community. Be sure to order your very own copy right away. They also make wonderful holiday gifts for your friends and loved ones.

Order Form

Please send me _____ calendars at $8.95 per calendar. (Includes tax)

Total cost = $_____. (Check or money order enclosed)

Name - _____

Address - _____

City, State & ZIP - _____

Phone Number - _____